



TAKING HEART

The inaugural Heart Foundation Chair of Heart Health at The University of Auckland, Rob Doughty, will draw inspiration from his team when he takes up his challenging new role to improve the cardiovascular health of New Zealanders.

Rob is a practising cardiologist as well as a teacher and researcher in cardiology at the Faculty of Medical Health Sciences. His vision will see the establishment of a team including biomedical, clinical and population health experts, all focused upon improving the heart health of New Zealanders.

Heart disease, the single biggest cause of death for men and women in New Zealand, is a formidable opponent. However, Rob Doughty is

confident that he is up to the challenge. "The key thing about heart health is you can prevent it or you can treat it. That's very motivating for me."

In his new role as Chair of Heart Health at the University, Rob will bring together the many research activities and projects already underway in heart health nationally and the global knowledge base in preventative heart care for the benefit of New Zealanders. National leadership and advocacy for heart health are also key to the role.

This Chair of Heart Health is the culmination of an enormous fundraising effort by the Heart Foundation which has raised \$5 million to date for the establishment of the new research Chair. Central to the fundraising was last year's

national bike ride "Great ride for heart" in which Rob himself was a driving force and participant.

Professor Iain Martin, Dean of Medical and Health Sciences, sees the appointment as "a key milestone for the relationship between the Heart Foundation and the University".

Rob's vision for success is to use the whole playing field. "It will be the convergence of the research hub, the Heart Foundation and the national support that will ultimately make the Chair most effective. The Heart Foundation's motto is 'Together we will beat heart disease' and that's absolutely right."

Rob will take up his new role on 1 June.

Photo: Rob Doughty (centre) in the "Great ride for heart".



At the first University Council meeting of the year, held on 7 March, we began what will be an extended process to develop the University's new Strategic Plan.

The current Strategic Plan 2005-2012 was developed during early 2005, consulted on with the University community and stakeholders, and adopted by the University Council at its meeting on 15 August 2005. Council made approval of the Plan conditional on a review one year later. Following that review, which resulted in only one change, the Plan was unconditionally adopted by the Council at its meeting of 21 August 2006.

As finally adopted, the Strategic Plan 2005-2012 included a number of ambitious objectives. Progress on these objectives has been reported to Council and staff every second month through my Council and Senate reports, and at year's end through the Annual Report of the University.

Subsequent to its adoption, the Strategic Plan 2005-2012 has become the focus of a comprehensive planning and accountability system within the University, one in which faculties, departments/schools/centres and service divisions, together with their leaders, are accountable for contributing, in a manner appropriate to their particular role and circumstances, to achievement of the University's strategic objectives. As a result, the Strategic Plan plays a key role in giving direction to the activities of and investment by the University. That in turn means that the development of an appropriate successor to the current Strategic Plan is even more critical to the University's future than was the case in 2005.

The process we have begun with Council will lead to the development of a draft Strategic Plan 2013-2020, to be completed by the end of the year. That draft will then be available for extensive consultation with staff, students and members of the wider University community during 2012, with a final version to be adopted by Council at the end of that year when the current Plan expires. During this year, I will keep staff informed via this column of the strategic issues that Council is discussing.

Research in the rainforest



For a New Zealand ecologist or biologist Brunei is paradise.

At least it would seem so from the words of Dr Jacqueline Beggs (Biological Sciences) speaking of her recent visit to the rainforest research centre of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

"We were standing out on the deck in the evening with bats sweeping in, with different species of frogs and insects calling. I was only there one night but I was longing to put my boots on, turn on my head lamp and head out into the jungle. I knew there were all sorts of exciting things to be found there."

Jacqueline, who heads the University's Joint Graduate School of Biodiversity and Biosecurity, was in Brunei with Associate Professor Chris Tremewan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), to attend the inaugural meeting of iCUBE, the International Consortium of Universities for the Study of Biodiversity and the Environment, and to sign as a member and help establish the charter. UBD is offering its rainforest research centre as the core of this collaborative project, with seven research universities invited to Brunei for the inaugural discussions on setting up the consortium; The University of Auckland, King's College London, Korea and Monash Universities, the Universities of Bonn and of North Carolina, and the National University of Singapore.

The members will pool their expertise to promote awareness and understanding of issues related to biodiversity and the environment.

Says Chris Tremewan: "This collaboration came from a conversation I had 18 months ago with the former dean of science at the National University of Singapore, who is now an adviser to the dynamic new vice-chancellor of UBD.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for Auckland to build on its research strength in biodiversity and conservation by partnering with Brunei's university as it focuses on rainforest conservation in one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, the Borneo jungle."

The rainforest research centre, originally established in 1991, is situated in the

undeveloped area of Brunei, Temburong District, where about 35,000 hectares of rainforest have been largely preserved.

Three to four hours from the UBD campus on an exciting journey involving travel by speedboat, minibus and finally by longboat (with academics offered plastic bags to ensure that their papers and equipment stay dry), the centre has become a hub for rainforest researchers and for students to visit for project work on the Borneo flora and fauna. It has laboratories and accommodation for 40 people and is, as Jacqueline describes it, wonderfully well-equipped for New Zealanders accustomed to "roughing it" on field trips.

Jacqueline is excited by the possibilities. "In biodiversity Brunei provides a wonderful contrast and counterpoint to New Zealand. It would be a great environment in which to teach students core skills in ecology," she says.

In addition she sees the potential for co-supervision of graduate students who could work both in the rainforest and in New Zealand. "People were lovely, very keen to collaborate, and they have very little experience in postgraduate supervision. UBD has been an undergraduate university but is now looking to grow its research sector. The University of Auckland definitely has something to offer in this."

She is confident that Auckland's researchers have much to contribute to, and to gain from, the consortium and the UBD.

"Our University has quite a lot of ecological expertise in conservation, particularly biosecurity issues around invasive species. And New Zealand, like Borneo, is also a biodiversity hotspot of the world, though for different reasons. While Borneo has high species diversity with relatively low abundance, New Zealand has low diversity but relatively high abundance and a very high proportion of indigenous species, entirely unknown elsewhere."

This complementarity means there is scope for valuable collaborative research. "Comparative studies will become the strength of the agreement," she says.



Guest's eye view

I can't quite put my finger on it but I enjoyed the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.

Maybe it was the wine. Or it may have been the food, which was delicious. Or maybe it was the novelty that although I was in a dinner suit, I wasn't at a wedding.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner also happened to be the first time I've attended an alumni event, as an alumnus. Which is quite surprising given the number of years that I have worked at the University.

It may have been the formality of dress but the evening took on an Oscar-like theme – awards, red carpet, champagne and even

paparazzi – if two photographers can be considered paparazzi. Perhaps by New Zealand standards. One of the photographers was working for *About Town*.

It was a shame that the evening was marred by an untimely downpour which forced the cancellation of the pre-event networking on the lawns of Old Government House. Not that that mattered for me, seeing as I ran some 30 minutes late. I told people the practice was acceptable and even expected of the “young and apparently fashionable”.

The evening's proceedings went according to plan with allusions and references to speed

dating by the Mayor, speed driving by the Mayor and a confession about being a four-year-old trapped inside a 64-year-old's body by an award recipient.

In Oscar-like style, I noted the fashion choices for the evening. Not that I am a fashionista myself but it would seem remiss of me not to provide some subjective commentary on fashion choices.

Some pointers: it's pretty hard for a man not to look good in a dinner suit; women have the burden and the blessing of choice and always seem to make the right one, every time; whilst a white dinner jacket may look good on the recipient who wore it, it wouldn't look good on me – wearing one would make me feel more in place on an episode of the *Love Boat*.

The formalities of the evening came to a close with the serving of dessert and coffee. This, I concluded, must be secret Da Vinci-like Alumni code for “networking” as I don't recall having any dessert or coffee but I recall seeing a lot of people getting around and meeting others. Myself included.

As an alumnus, I'm glad I went along to the event. Not just because I looked particularly good in a suit and wing-tip collar but also because it's not often you get the chance to hear about the more spectacular achievements of some of our more distinguished alumni.

Chris Marshall

This year's DAA winners were Rt Hon Sir Blanchard, Dr Greg Brick, Tony Falkenstein, Jeanette Fitzsimons, the Hon Mike Rann, and Dr Claire French (Young Alumna of the Year). A full profile including photos will be included in the Autumn issue of *Ingenio*.

Photo: Friend of the University Irene Fisher arrives in an untimely downpour

Highlighted events

Strategies for success

Are you an emerging researcher in science? Do you need tips on publishing and mentorship? Do you know how to market yourself in a cover letter and CV? Do you want to know how research is measured and how you can use it to your advantage? Then come along to a STRATUS event – Strategies for success in research – a workshop designed to teach you how to achieve success. Expert panellists from the Faculties of Science, Engineering and Medical and Health Sciences will be available to answer your questions. This will take place on 7 April, 3-5 pm, followed by drinks and nibbles in the Women's Federation Room at Old Government House. RSVP to secretary@stratus.ac.nz by 31 March.

Aid and growth

Should New Zealand's aid programme focus on economic development? This is the question to be addressed at an event to which all are invited on 21 March, 5-7pm, in Room 403.403, Engineering Building. The speaker is Terence Wood, a former research analyst for NZAID, with discussants Dr Ken Jackson and Dr Anita Lacey (Political Studies). In 2009 the National Government changed the mandate of the New Zealand aid programme. No longer would it have a core focus on poverty reduction. Instead it was to foster sustainable development by means of promoting economic development. Terence Wood will examine whether this is the best way to bring about development more generally and will examine aid's track record in promoting economic growth.

Playing with Fire

At the Gus Fisher Gallery from now until 30 April is a suite of three exhibitions, *Playing with Fire*, celebrating 50 years of the Auckland Studio Potters and combining to put clay back on the map. The gallery's glorious Art Deco foyer will showcase the work of Graeme Storm, while Gallery One is devoted to Denis O'Connor's past in pottery (1973-1983) and Gallery Two features fellow "clay poet" Peter Hawkesby. On 19 March at 1pm you are invited to hear a discussion of the early work of Denis O'Connor by pottery collector and connoisseur, Stuart Newby. On 26 March at 1pm writer and gallerist, Anna Miles, will talk about the shifting role and significance of ceramics in New Zealand.



‘Exciting stuff’

On the verge of major recognition and with insights that could help many people all over the world, Associate Professor Karen Waldie (Psychology) can look back with satisfaction at the obstacles she has overcome.

Gaining recognition for her work with those affected by developmental dyslexia – which has been her passion for the past 20 years – has been a major struggle for Karen.

“Dyslexia is a condition in which the left side of the brain is not working as it should. As a result the brain, being a compensatory system, diverts the workload to the right side, but with drastically different results,” says Karen.

Despite five to seven percent of the population

suffering from dyslexia it wasn’t until 2007 that the Ministry of Education formally acknowledged it as a learning impairment – even though it had been recognised for many years in Europe and North America.

Despite these attitudes Karen maintained her work in the field, and in 2005 teamed with Anna Wilson, whose interest in dyscalculia struck a chord with her. Dyscalculia is a base number issue that can cause people to have problems judging quantities and numbers.

“Working together we realised that even though the prevalence of the individual disorders occurred in five to seven percent of the population, they co-occur approximately 50 percent of the time, something that had never been investigated in depth anywhere in the world.”

The two then decided to use new functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) technology at the Medical School, along with cognitive profiling, to investigate groups of people with one, both, or neither of these disorders.

Similarities or differences between the groups would be discovered by seeing how the brain operated during language and number tasks. The findings, it was hoped, would lead to advances in understanding how the brain works in those with dyslexia, dyscalculia or both.

“Despite this, trying to get funding for research at that time in New Zealand was near to impossible as there was a belief that these weren’t real disorders.”

This prompted Karen to apply for a Faculty Research Development Fund (FRDF) grant through

the Faculty of Science in 2006. This was approved and supported her work from 2007 to 2009.

The funding allowed Karen to hire Anna as a post-doc to run the cognitive profiling part of the project, before an academic position opened up and Anna left Auckland to start her own research career.

Undeterred, Karen hired a research assistant and was able to run fMRI brain scans on a subset of her research participants during the second year of the study.

Over two years more than 200 adults with one or both conditions went through a series of tests and were whittled down to a group of 47, who would undergo the brain scanning exercise.

The scans also showed that during testing those affected by dyscalculia used different areas of the brain, proving definitively that the two disorders are separate.

“We’ve presented these findings at conferences in Europe and people are amazed at our large sample size and that we are asking questions others haven’t.

“It also makes people question the research that has come before.”

The next stage for Karen is applying for bigger grants from neurological foundations, the Marsden Fund and the Health Research Council. This time she is quietly confident of success.

“The FRDF allowed me to get some great preliminary data which will be published in high-profile publications. Hopefully this will open up some doors that were previously closed to us. There are so many options; this is exciting, novel stuff.”

Mums and children needed

Professor Wayne Cutfield and Dr Tim Savage, of Starship Children’s Hospital and The Liggins Institute, are embarking on a ground-breaking, world-first study and need more participants.

The pair are researching whether the age of a mother, at the time of giving birth, makes a difference to her child’s health later on.

“We do not know if having a child when a mother is younger or older makes a difference to her child’s growth and physical development. As mothers are having children at older ages, this is certainly a question which needs to be answered,” said Dr Savage.

The average age at which New Zealand women are having children is one of the highest in the world.

“This study is beneficial for parents and children. Parents get to find out more about the health of their child; including assessment of their child’s height, weight, bone strength and muscle mass. We also evaluate their cholesterol, insulin and growth hormone levels. Most importantly, the children find participation in the study interesting and fun,” he adds.

Dr Savage has already assessed more than 200 children, but is in need of at least 100 more.

“We need children who are aged between three and 11 years old to take part in the study. Their mothers must have been younger than 30 or over 40 when they gave birth to them,” he said.

Participation in the study involves a one-off, 30-minute visit to the Children’s Research Unit in the Liggins Institute.

If you are interested in being part of Dr Savage’s study, contact tim.savage@auckland.ac.nz or on 09 9234616.

Letter published in Little Treasures (mothers’ magazine)

Call for applications

The University is calling for applications for Hood Fellowships for 2011.

These fellowships, established in 2004, have been highly successful in allowing 64 New Zealand and international scholars the opportunity for travel and academic exchange. Dr John Hood’s vision was to

enable The University of Auckland’s best academics and up-and-coming researchers to visit leading overseas institutions and to bring the best academics from other leading institutions to visit this University.

This round of applications closes on 15 April. Academic staff are encouraged to apply for the

awards, each valued at up to \$20,000.

Further information and application forms can be found on www.uoafoundation.org.nz/hood.html or for inquiries contact Pramilla DaSilva at External Relations on 88113 or email pc.dasilva@auckland.ac.nz



Art residencies

The rarely seen process of traditional Samoan tattooing will be open for all to view as part of a new programme to encourage the preservation of traditional Pacific knowledge through the Centre for Pacific Studies.

Tufuga ta tatau (tattoo master) Su'a Suluape Alaiva's Petelo Suluape, well-known for his contemporary and traditional tattooing, will take up one of four of the University's Heritage

Artists in Residencies for 2011. During his month-long visit he is scheduled to create a full-male tatau on PhD candidate Falaniko Tominiko.

Each residency will allow a Pacific Heritage artist or group of artists to work full-time on a project based at the Fale Pasifika. Running between April and October they will cover both traditional male and female master crafts (Tongan ngatu, Niuean weaving, Samoan tattoo and Tongan lashing) and will be complemented with a public programme of events and workshops designed to maintain heritage arts and make them more accessible to Pacific communities and the wider public.

The Otaota Fahina Society of women textile artists from Mt Roskill will be the first residents. From April to May they will create a large ngatu (Tongan tapa) and will instruct students from three Auckland high schools' bilingual units in the art and significance of kupesi (rubbing tablets).

Staggered throughout May will be a collective of Niuean women weavers creating hats, mats and baskets and led by master-weaver and Creative New Zealand Senior Pacific Artist award-winner Matafetu Smith.

Finally Tufuga Lalava Filipe Tohi, master in traditional Tongan lashing and creator of the lashings inside the University's Fale (pictured), will work on a new installation.

A warm welcome

Friends from the legal and academic worlds gathered at University House on 24 February to give a warm welcome to Julie Maxton, newly-appointed as the first female executive director of the British Royal Society.

For Julie this gave a welcome opportunity to catch up with her former colleagues in the Faculty of Law at The University of Auckland, where she was appointed the first female professor of law in 1993, and the first female dean of law in 2000, before taking up the position of first female registrar at Oxford University.

In her present position she becomes part of the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence, with approximately 1500 fellows and foreign members, and more than 70 Nobel laureates.

See the back page of this issue of *Uninews* for a photo of Julie speaking with friends and former colleagues at the event held in her honour.

While in Auckland, she did a full interview with *Ingenio* magazine, and will be featured as the lead story in the Autumn issue.

Cohabitation study

Have you been cohabiting with an opposite-sex or same-sex partner for at least three years but now decided to marry or enter a civil union? Have you married or had a civil union after cohabiting for three years or longer? Are you over the age of 25 and living in the Auckland region?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, are you interested in participating in a confidential interview that will explore your decision-making about the legalisation of your relationship, the

nature of your ceremony, and the meanings of the event? This recorded interview will be done by our trained interviewers, will take about one hour, and will occur in a place of your choosing. Each participant will be given a small koha of \$20 to acknowledge their time.

For more information, please contact Professor Maureen Baker at the Sociology Department of The University of Auckland at ma.baker@auckland.ac.nz.

Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI)

Funding to stage international workshops, call for proposals: Up to \$50,000 to hold workshops prior to July 2011 involving delegates or organisations from the United States. The aim is to explore areas of joint interest with counterparts in the United States and formulate collaborative programmes in the following areas: Antarctic research; Agriculture, biotechnology and food innovation; Climate change; Renewable energy; Ocean and marine biosciences; Health innovation; Earth dynamics; Contemporary evolution; GHG emissions, and Social sciences. For further details please contact Jonathan Lane, j.lane@auckland.ac.nz. Closing date to Research Office Tuesday 15 March.

EU Humanities Fellowships

The M4HUMAN programme offers EU Marie Curie fellowships, jointly funded with the Gerda Henkel Foundation. These are two-year research grants for both "experienced" and "senior" researchers, in history (including art, legal, Islamic), archaeology and "Islam, the modern nation state and transnational movements". The fellowships will support mobility of researchers from the European Union to New Zealand or from New Zealand to Germany. Deadline to Research Office 16 June. For further details contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz.

The Thrasher Fund (US)

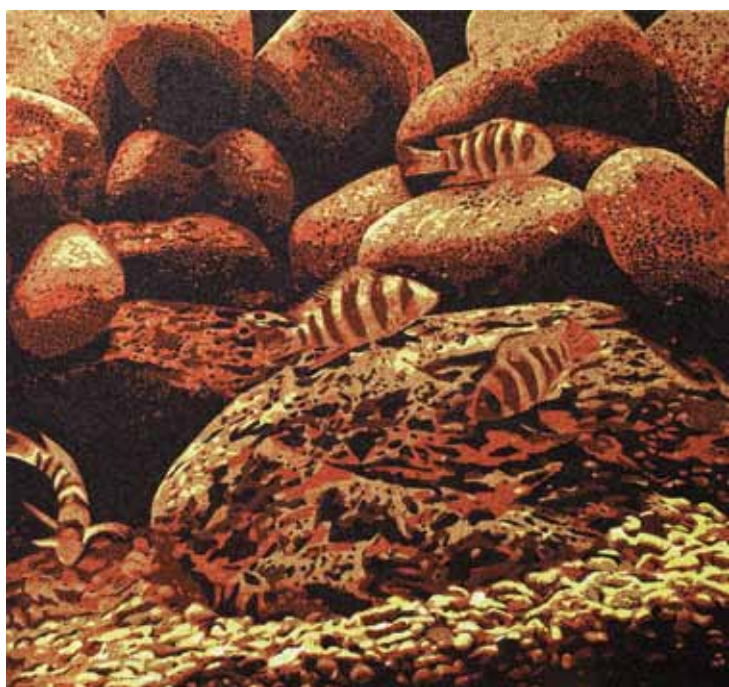
Early career research grants of up to USD 25,000 for medical research into child health. For further details contact David Saunders, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz. Deadline to Research Office 3 June.

MFAT Historical Research Grants

Grants of up to \$5,000 for research in the subject area "New Zealand's place in the world" (with preference given to post World War II foreign relations, and to work which draws on the Ministry's archival records). Closing date at Research Office 8 April. For further details please contact researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz

Travel grants – Closing dates at Research Office

National Heart Foundation Travel Grants Round 1 - 25/05/11; Maurice & Phyllis Paykel Trust Travel Grants Round 2 - 25/05/11; Auckland Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) Travel Grants Round 2 - 20/04/11; RSNZ Charles Fleming Fund Senior Scientist Award - \$10,000 for research and/or mobility costs. 24/03/11; RSNZ Charles Fleming Fund Travel Award - 24/03/11; RSNZ COST support - \$5000 to support travel to participate in an EU COST research network. Ongoing deadline.



Reuben Paterson's work extends the customary Māori use of design, pattern, weaving and layering by using seductive new materials and techniques from the worlds of fashion and fabric design.

Since his first exhibition, entitled *Salute to Pierre et Gilles*, at George Fraser Gallery in 1997, shimmer discs, diamantés and glitter dust have camped up Paterson's surfaces leading to the apotheosis of glamour which was his eight square metre installation at the Sixth Asia Pacific Triennial, *Whakapapa: get down upon your knees* 2009.

Whereas Andy Warhol used glitter to signify magic and money in his 1980 series *Diamond Dust Shoes*, Paterson is more interested in drawing attention to the play of light across the

surface of his works, with all its weighted heritage of spiritual symbolism. He writes: "A central concept in these works reiterates my gratitude to life and acknowledges life's juxtaposition to misdeed through the sequential recital of the various names for the first states of existence designated Te Kore (the void), Te Po (the dark), and Te Ao Marama (the world of light)."

Until the *Water Between Us* exhibition shown in Dunedin in 2010 where this work

featured, Paterson did not attempt representation. Prior to this series, it was Māori culture and nostalgia-laden floral fabrics from the 1960s and 1970s arranged in contrasting panels to create an optical pulse which characterised his work. His painterly concerns develop with *Water to Fish* along twinned figurative and abstract routes. He implies the presence of water in a contained environment like an aquarium. His aim is to demonstrate how glitter is able to control and present space, depth and volume just as ordinary paint might, while celebrating the unique light-reflective, interactive and sculptural qualities of glitter.

Going underwater as he does with *Water to Fish*, his aim is not to parody the idea of a Pacific paradise as he once did, but to draw attention to

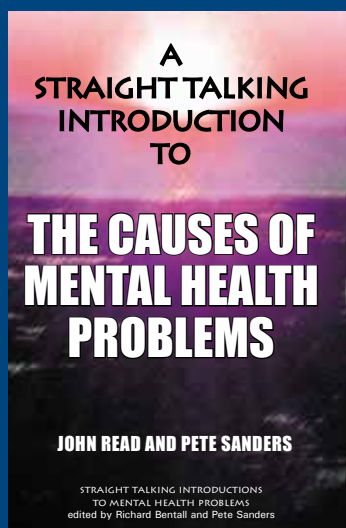
environmental issues. To allude to the historical, social and political realities of the use and abuse of water, delicate tropical fish are shown moving through the invisible medium.

Unseen, and unrepresentable, his watery scene becomes a metaphor and a symbol. Being of Ngati Rangitahi descent, (a hapu of Te Arawa and Tuhoe tribes), Paterson has an explicit interest in the Karangahake Gorge and its role as a route and a barrier in Māori society. As a result of gold mining in the nineteenth century, this important habitat has been irreversibly altered. Although the 1875 gold rush at Waikino was short-lived, later on it became the site of the Waihi Gold Mining Company's huge battery complex from 1896-1952, one of New Zealand's most industrialised sites. Just as places once prominent in goldmining no longer exist in the Coromandel, so traditions and cultural practices too have been washed away, superseded or corrupted, and marginalised. The gorge separated the Eastern iwi from the Bay of Plenty (which is Paterson's tribal rohe) from the Hauraki iwi. It divided one from the other and none could enter without first being welcomed, announced and admitted. What was once a major food source – the water of the river – was polluted and altered forever. Using a tightly restricted palette of orange and brown, he suggests the sepia toning of the photographs of the past to create an image of nostalgia and loss.

Linda Tyler

Reuben Paterson (b.1973)
Water to Fish, 2010, glitter on canvas,
1680x1800x38mm
The University of Auckland Art Collection

Books



A Straight Talking Introduction to the Causes of Mental Health Problems, written by Professor John Read (Psychology) and Pete Sanders and published in the UK by PCCS Books, is one of a series entitled *Straight Talking Introductions to Mental Health Problems*.

The causes of mental health problems are often more complicated than we would like. This book offers a realistic way of thinking about this difficult issue and presents straightforward summaries of theories of, and research about, possible causes.

Because there is no single convenient answer to the questions explored in this book, competing viewpoints are presented. The authors declare

their own biases towards the social and environmental roots of mental health problems, whilst readers are encouraged to focus on what fits best with their own experience and decide what explanations are most helpful to them.

Jacqui Dillon, Chair of the Hearing Voices Network, describes the book as "a refreshing antidote to the simplistic and pessimistic biomedical model", while Tony Morrison, Professor of Clinical psychology at the University of Manchester, writes that "This brilliantly engaging, understandable and thoughtful book describes current opinion about the causes of mental health problems and will equip service users, carers and professionals alike with empowering knowledge".

What's on

FRIDAY 18 MARCH

Consortium for Health in Ageing seminar

Professor Ashley Adamson, Professor of Public Health Nutrition, Institute of Health and Society and Human Nutrition Research Centre, Newcastle University, England: *Nutrition in childhood: Whose job is it and does it matter? Changing school food policy in England.* 12.30-1.30pm Lecture Theatre 732-201, Tamaki Campus.

For further information contact Tina-Maria Elliott, phone ext 88450 or email t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz

School of Music discussion/demonstration

New Purple Forbidden City Orchestra (China). 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Composition Workshop

Chinary Ung (Cambodia): *O Cambodia.* 4-6pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

Artists appears by kind permission of the Auckland Arts Festival 2011 Arts and Minds Public Programme. Free.

SATURDAY 19 MARCH

Brain Day 2011

9am-4pm Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road.

Have you ever wondered how your brain cells work? Or where your memories are stored? Then Brain Day 2011 is for you. Hosted by the Centre for Brain Research in association with the Neurological Foundation, Brain Day aims to raise awareness of brain research and brain disease.

Visit www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/brainweek/

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Pottery collector and connoisseur, Stuart Newby, discusses the early work of Denis O'Connor. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 21 MARCH

NZ Aid and Development Dialogues talk

Terence Wood, PhD student, ANU: *Aid and growth: Should NZ's aid programme focus on economic development?* 5-7pm Rm 403-403, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Discussants: Dr Ken Jackson and Dr Anita Lacey.

Visit www.nzadds.org.nz

Viola Master Class

Firmian Lermer (Austria). 7.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

TUESDAY 22 MARCH

Communiqué Autumn lecture

Neil Jeremia, founder, artistic director of Black Grace. 12noon-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Bioengineering research seminar

Associate Professor Alan Davidson, Department of Molecular Medicine

and Pathology: *Kidney regeneration in zebrafish.* 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH

Strings Performance Class

Firmian Lermer (Austria). 9-11am Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Word smart documents

1-4pm CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops (IT Literacy) to enrol or phone 87951 to inquire.

THURSDAY 24 MARCH

Department of Asian Studies seminar

Prof Anthony Reid, ANU: *Making sense of Asian nationalisms.* 3.30-4.30pm Rm 325, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

Department of History seminar

Dr Gordon Morrell, Honorary Research Fellow, Dept of History, UoA; Associate Professor of History, Nipissing University, Canada: *When the Gods failed: Traitors, true-believers and Anglo-Soviet espionage in the 1930s.* 4pm Room 59, History Dept.

Queries to Aroha Harris, email a.harris@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 25 MARCH

Excel pivot tables

10am-12noon CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops (IT Literacy) to enrol or phone 87951 to inquire.

Lunchtime concert

Featuring School of Music students from the voice and string departments. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

SATURDAY 26 MARCH

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Writer and gallerist, Anna Miles, talks about the shifting role and significance of ceramics in NZ. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 28 MARCH

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences workshop/lectures

Dr Barbara Fredrickson, University of North Carolina: *Positive psychology in practice: Evidence-based interventions for promoting resilience and lifestyle change.* 9am-4pm Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus.

Register at s.robertson@auckland.ac.nz

Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

Prof Ian Buchanan, Professor of Critical and Cultural Theory, Cardiff University: *February 13, 2008, or, the baleful enchantments of an apology.* 3-4pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2.

TUESDAY 29 MARCH

Communiqué Autumn lecture

Sopolemalama Filipe Tohi, Tongan sculptor. 12noon-1pm Design Lecture

Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

Prof Katherine Sender, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania: *No hard feelings: Reflexivity and queer affect in the new media landscape.* 3-4pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2.

Auckland branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy seminar

Dr Grant Duncan, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Politics, Massey University at Albany: *Should happiness-maximisation be the goal of government?* 6pm Small Lecture Theatre, Bldg 803, School of Law, 17 Eden Crescent.

Queries to pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz

Faculty of Arts seminar

Professor Maria Tatar, Harvard University: *Fairy tales in an age of electronic entertainments.* 6pm Lecture Theatre B10, General Library Building, Alfred St.

WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH

Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

John McCaffery and Judy Taligalu McFall McCaffery, UoA: *Endangered Polynesian Pacific languages: An update.* 12noon Rm 210, Level 2, Fisher Bldg.

THURSDAY 31 MARCH

Inaugural Lectures 2011

By new professors at the UoA. Prof Stephen May: *Dealing with the 'perils' of diversity: Addressing the pluralist dilemma in Aotearoa/NZ.* 6pm for refreshments, Neon Foyer, School of Engineering, Bldg 401. 7pm for Lecture, Engineering Lecture Theatre 401.439, 20 Symonds St.

TeKaTiNa rhythm process workshop

Reinhard Flatischler (Austria). 7.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

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ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

A professional, mature, n/s woman wants to house-sit or rent (unfurnished or furnished) a house, apartment or townhouse, two or more bthrms in the Auckland area including North Shore for a minimum period of six months. This is for one occupant who holds a clinical position at the University, and will take good care of your home and garden. References are available. Please contact (021) 186 3774 or cheska@clear.net.nz

Reliable and experienced house-sitter available.

N/s, mature, tidy and conscientious female. Able to be home a great deal and provide companionship for pets and security for property. Experienced in looking after young and elderly cats and dogs. I appreciate quiet areas, views, green surrounds and sunny houses, but will consider any location. Contact me by email: sianrobinson@iprimus.com.au (I am in NZ).

MISCELLANEOUS

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The University of Auckland Cricket Club is over 100 years old, has a player base of 1000+, involves numerous University players (students and staff), has excellent facilities at Colin Maiden Park, hosts the Auckland Aces, and has plans for even more cricket One of our Board members is leaving and we are looking for a senior academic who has a passion for cricket, and is willing to serve on the Board. Please email j.hattie@auckland.ac.nz

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LOOKING TO THE 21ST CENTURY

In December 2010 New Zealand hosted the fourth meeting of negotiators trying to strike free trade deal between nine countries – Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the US – known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Its champions have dubbed it “an agreement for the 21st century”. To me, that means the agreement could address the major challenges of financial instability, climate change, systemic inequality, job insecurity, energy scarcity, natural resource wars.

That is not what they mean. Instead, their TPPA deepen our pre-commitment to maintain free market policies that affect our jobs, our social and cultural wellbeing, and ultimately the sovereignty to make decisions as a nation.

The government has two main rationales for these negotiations. The first, to secure significant new access for Fonterra to the US markets, has been dismissed by informed commentators like Joseph Stiglitz as a pipedream, because the US agricultural lobby, and hence the US Congress, would never allow it.

Second, they believe the TPPA can create a platform for an APEC-wide free trade agreement, anchored in the power of the US to countervail the emerging powers. The idea that China, Japan, Korea and maybe India might sign up to the agreement in the distant future is another pipedream.

There is no evidence that the TPPA will have any concrete benefits for New Zealand, and an abundance of downsides.

What a New Zealand government signs now will bind future governments for the next century. Yet very few people have the slightest idea what is at stake. The problem is not just what we might have to do now, but what we might be prevented from doing in the future.

The TPPA would lock us into a model where markets and big businesses rule, ignoring the reality that it has failed.

We are still trying to sort out the mess in leaky buildings, shady finance firms, Telecom’s milking of its private monopoly, and many other examples of market-based regulation. The people of New Zealand paid dearly for that. And we will pay again under a TPPA. But this time the price will be higher.

The agreement could guarantee foreign investors from the US, Australia or Singapore the right to comment on proposed new laws that affect their operations, giving them more say than New Zealand voters.

Worse, foreign corporations could take the government to international arbitration claiming multi-million dollars in compensation for new regulations they say have reduced the value of their investment. Even if New Zealand had a solid defence, the threat of a dispute and a manufactured “crisis of investor confidence” could have a chilling effect so that government backs off.

Expect more Warner-style assaults on our labour and environment laws; Australian private equity funds enforcing a right to buy more strategic assets; even weaker foreign investment laws; big pharmaceutical corporations dictating

what Pharmac pays for medicines; and tobacco companies challenging any new tobacco control laws.

Labelling requirements for genetically modified foods and countries of origin could become impossible. So could parallel importing of books and DVDs and moves to increase New Zealand content on broadcasting. The US is likely to demand more punitive actions against Internet users to protect its entertainment industry’s products.

Ironically, the government may also guarantee rights to foreign firms that it refuses to recognise for Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi.

This proposed agreement has constitutional importance for New Zealand because it ties the hands of future governments in ways that no domestic law can do. Yet the Cabinet can negotiate and sign the treaty in secret without first conducting an informed public debate or exposing draft texts to detailed scrutiny.

The government needs to step back from the current TPPA process and provide the information and space for a rigorous public analysis of its implications. If these agreements are so great for the countries involved, let us see the drafts as they are prepared, test out the rationale and conduct an informed democratic debate about the model that should govern us for the next 100 years.

Professor Jane Kelsey (Law)

Photo: Jane Kelsey (forefront left) talks with Julie Maxton (right) at Julie’s reception at University House. Centre is Associate Professor Caroline Daley.